

# The Patchwork Quilt of History

**PROF. WILLIAM S. DAVIS** says: "For many years to come the eyes of thoughtful men will be turned anxiously upon the complex problems of the Near East. To understand even a modicum of these problems, it is needful to understand the long, tangled history of their past." For this reason, he has written "A Short History of the Near East." He begins his narrative with the founding of Constantinople and ends with the revival of Turkish nationalism in 1922. He does not over emphasize the importance of recent events in the history of this



Among the Season's Juveniles. From "The Boy Who Found the King." (Bobbs-Merrill.)

region, but he follows Herodotus in seeing the struggle as one between East and West. The Turkish penetration of Europe and the Turkish retreat in Europe. He attains impartiality in dealing with Islam. He quotes Von Moltke as saying in 1824, "The partition of Turkey is a problem like the division of a diamond ring. Who is to obtain Constantinople, the single costly stone?" A disproportionate amount of space is given to the imperial city and to the Greek rebellion. The history of the Albanian race is especially slurred over, although these people produced Constantine, Justinian, Scanderbeg, Ali Pasha, Marco Bozzaris and Crispi.

Disease is now recognized as the most deadly enemy a soldier has to face. In "My Balkan Log," Dr. J. Johnston Abraham tells of the war against typhus which he waged under essentially medieval surroundings. Dr. Abraham was attached to the First British Red Cross unit. They had a hospital at Uskub. It was almost impossible to secure adequate supplies. Such a stream of wounded came for treatment that the men had to be dismissed before they were properly healed. The nerves of the staff were already shattered by their superhuman efforts, when typhus, the "Black Death," which had decimated the medieval world appeared.

Although Dr. Abraham had little leisure, he absorbed much information. He is just in his judgments. He quotes with approval a consul's statement, "Only the

Moslem is clean in the East." He regarded Macedonia as a very fluctuating country. He says, "The average Macedonian is neither Serb, nor Greek, nor Bulgar. He is just whatever suits him." Dr. Abraham was impressed by the democracy of the Serb. He speculates as to whether this "freedom from class distinction may be due to long association with the Turks among whom hereditary rank is practically unknown," or to the "centuries of repression making it impossible for any Christian aristocratic class to maintain itself." The Serb peasants could not understand why they were at war with Austria. The Austrians had always been their friends in the struggle with the Turks. Dr. Abraham found that most of his Magyar patients died because they had aroused such hatred that no hospital orderly, whether Serbians or prisoners of war from other races, would give them any attention.

The Turk has probably been called "unspeakable" because for a long time his defense was unspoken. To-day even the Turk has press agents. Djemal Pasha is a competent spokesman for his people. His "Memories of a Turkish statesman" seems absolutely candid. The author realizes that his nation must defend itself before the judgment of the world. His first three chapters are rather unwieldy and the book is minus a very necessary index, but is written in faultless English.

Djemal Pasha's narrative begins on January 23, 1913, when he was appointed Military Governor of Constantinople. The Cabinet realized that Turkey was in a position of perilous isolation, as practically all the Powers were openly hostile. Djemal Pasha gives several instances of conspirators being protected by the English and the French. He did his best to promote friendlier relations with the other neighboring States. At the close of the second Balkan war, Djemal Pasha was appointed to make peace with Bulgaria. It was provided in the treaty of Constantinople "that any Bulgarians residing on Turkish terri-

lieves and desires others to believe. It is thus ridiculous to suggest that we behaved like Apaches."

During the war Djemal Pasha held many important posts. He believed that Turkey should postpone her belligerency as long as possible. He organized an attack on the Suez Canal, which delayed the Allies' attempt upon the Dardanelles. He commanded against the British in the two battles of Gazu, and shows that the British overestimated the force ranged against them. Djemal Pasha believed that the Turkish force should be concentrated in Syria and opposed the drive against Bagdad. He is bitter against the Arab rebels, and in his chapter on the Armenian question he shows that the reports of massacres were exaggerated, and that not all the guilt was on one side.

Mufti-Zade K. Zia Bey, the author of "Speaking of the Turks," is the son of the Turkish Ambassador to England, and as he has lived in America several years, and is married to an American girl, he is able to plead his national cause in an idiom which we can understand. Turkey at the present time resembles the South during the reconstruction period. Zia Bey shows that as an individual the Turk is more honest and better mannered than the Levantine. He contrasts the dignity of the Turkish quarter of Constantinople with that of the other districts, where all the waitresses in restaurants are supposed to be Russian princesses so that "in Pera it has become the custom to kiss the hand that feeds you." Zia Bey believes that it is a good thing that his race has been forced into business, "as long as this is a century where only material progress counts." He shows that Islam has been misrepresented and is more tolerant and progressive than we realize. He explains that few Turkish students attend Robert College because attendance at Sunday service is required of all the pupils.

W. D. McCracken's book, "The New Palestine," has an introduction by Lord

boy. He went into business for himself and, like Franklin, he won the respect of the community for his honesty and industry, and he retired when he had attained a competency in order to serve humanity. His first activities were local, and gradually extended until they affected all mankind.

Lubin was supremely race conscious, and Israel to mean a fighter for God. David Lubin as a merchant was a pioneer in the



Among the Season's Juveniles. From "Stories From the Life of Jesus." (Bobbs-Merrill.)

one price store. He believed that the motto of a just measure would solve all human problems. He became convinced that agriculture was the basic industry, and so he became a farmer. He wished to increase the prosperity of the farmer, and saw that improved marketing was a step. One of his ideas later developed into our parcels post.

On October 24, 1904, Lubin had an audience with the King of Italy, who gave him the prestige of royalty to found the International Institute of Agriculture. Lubin saw this as a link in the chain, the first "International Department of a World Administration." The institute devoted itself to getting accurate statistics on the staple crops, and thereby dealt a blow to gambling in necessities. Statesmen of many lands cooperate with him and the international institute was the "only body from which the belligerents never recalled their delegates." Thus he was able to achieve his vision of Israel teaching the nations to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NEAR EAST. By William Stearns Davis. The Macmillan Company.

MY BALKAN LOG. By J. Johnston Abraham. E. P. Dutton & Co.

MEMOIRS OF A TURKISH STATESMAN. By Djemal Pasha. George H. Doran Company.

SPEAKING OF THE TURKS. By Mufti-Zade K. Zia Bey. Duffield & Co.

THE NEW PALESTINE. By W. D. McCracken. Little, Brown & Co.

DAVID LUBIN. By Olivia Rosetti Agresti. Little, Brown & Co.



Among the Season's Juveniles. From "Johnny Moon and His Wishing Stick." (Bobbs-Merrill.)

tory should be removed to Bulgaria, and any Turks still left in Bulgaria should be removed to Turkey. This exchange was carried out to the satisfaction of both sides." This did away with one of the chief sources of friction in the Balkans. Venizelos was lukewarm when a similar exchange of Greeks and Turks was proposed. At this point, Djemal Pasha remarks the conspiracy of silence in the Western press, about the slaughter of Mohammedans by the Greeks.

Djemal Pasha's chief service to history is in what he says about the treaty between Turkey and Germany. He says: "The Turco-German alliance was not concluded during the war, as people have believed hitherto. It was certainly signed on August 2, 1914, but negotiations had been in progress long before the war." The Turks realized that a great war was inevitable. They suspected that the Entente had offered Constantinople to Russia to secure her alliance. Djemal Pasha defends the terms which were made with Germany and says: "Men may say what they like, looking back on events, but in my view, rather than fall miserably under the yoke of the Russians, English and French, it was infinitely better to defend ourselves to the last drop of blood in the hope of freeing ourselves forever." He denies Mr. Morgenthau's account of a quarrel between himself and Enver Pasha. He says: "We have not come from low and obscure origins, as Mr. Morgenthau be-

Bryce, and is frankly written to cement Anglo-American friendship. The book is illustrated with many photographs and a few water color sketches. It follows the convention that one should be very sentimental when writing on the Holy Land, but it has a certain amount of historical importance. The author went to Palestine to do relief work in Jerusalem. He established the Jerusalem Relief Laundry, the first enterprise to secure the cooperation of all creeds. He was brought into contact with all the British officials, and his brief sketches of them like the lands of Canaan overflow with milk and honey. He edited the Jerusalem News, the first English daily to be published in Palestine. He believes that he attained impartiality, because neither the Arabs nor the Zionists were satisfied with the modest account of the first demonstration against Zionism, which appeared in Jerusalem News the following day.

If one were to adopt Plutarch's device of biographical parallels perhaps the best man to pair with David Lubin would be Ben Franklin. The Philadelphia printer used to quote the text "Seest thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings." When David was only four years old his mother burned his cheek with a Sabbath candle and left a permanent mark, which was considered a portent and had a vital influence on him and gave a turn to his whole life.

David Lubin came to America as a small



Among the Season's Juveniles. From "The Flower of Fortune." (Century.)



Among the Season's Juveniles. From "The Turner Twins," by Ralph Henry Barbour. (Century.)